Proxy labours in FCI

3056. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIEUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the various godowns of Food Corporation of India, proxy labours are used to lift the bags and they are paid meagre amount as wages whereas as per records the jobs are performed by regular labours who are getting paid anything between 2.5 to 4.5 lakhs per annum;

(b) whether the proxy labour system is earned on with the convenience of Management of FCI; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to stop such malpractices and bring the culprits to books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) No Sir. No specific cases regarding proxy labour has come to the notice of the Food Corporation of India. The Food Corporation of India has informed that the annual earning of the Departmental Labour including wages, incentive wages and overtime allowance during the year 2002-03 is about Rs. 4 lakhs for a Handling Labour in one depot of the Food Corporation of India *i.e.* Sirsa situated in Haryana Region. This was due to the enormous workload which resulted in increase in their "Incentive-wage Earnings" as per Incentive Scheme which is linked with their output per shift/day. On an average, the total wages of a departmental labour ranges between Rs. 1.70 to Rs. 1.80 lakhs, annually.

The FCI is having sufficient labour force for food handling operations in various depots of the FCI and the FCI does not need the services of any outside labour for the operations.

Steps have been taken to avoid the alleged system of proxy labour, if any, by exercising strict supervision and control by issuing instructions to all the District Managers of the Food Corporation of India, Haryana Region.